

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02924 191817Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-10 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SEC-01

FTC-01 JUSE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SS-15 SAB-01 /121 W  
----- 094621

R 191737Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3940

INFO PANCANAL

USSOUTHCOM

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS PANAMA 2924

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PN

SUBJECT: BANANAS: UNITED BRANDS (UB)

REF: (A) STATE 114914 (B) PANAMA 2891

1. LOCAL PRESS MAY 16-17 PUBLISHED COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO CHIEF  
GOP GENERAL TORRIJOS BY UB'S PRESIDENT GELSTHORPE, CATEGORICALLY  
DENYING HAVING PAID BRIBES TO ANY OFFICIALS OF GOP OR COSTA RICA.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UB'S STATEMENT WHICH APPEARED IN STAR &  
HERALD MAY 17, BEGIN QUOTE:

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 02924 191817Z

3. "I FEEL COMPELLED TO CLARIFY THE ARTICLE PUBLISHED MAY 15, 1975, IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, WHICH REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK SOME TIME AGO ISSUED AN ORDER TO THE COMPANY, DIRECTING IT TO PRODUCE ANY DOCUMENTS SHOWING PAYMENTS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY.

4. "THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE DOES NOT INDICATE THAT THE OFFICE OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY HAS SUGGESTED THAT IT HAS ANY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PAYMENT TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF ANY COUNTRY EXCEPT THOSE WHOM THE COMPANY HAS PREVIOUSLY NAMED. THE OFFICE OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY SIMPLY REQUESTED THE COMPANY TO REVIEW ITS BOOKS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT PAYMENTS OF THIS NATURE WERE MADE. THE COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE ARE SOME OF THE MANY AMONG WHICH THE COMPANY IS REVIEWING ITS BOOKS IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE JUDICIAL ORDER.

5. "THE U.S. ATTORNEY IN NO WAY SUGGESTS THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY PAYMENT TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN COSTA RICA OR PANAMA AND THE COMPANY DECLARES THAT IT HAS MADE NO PAYMENT WHATEVER TO ANY OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF COSTA RICA OR PANAMA.

6. "I WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO EXPLAIN TO YOU IN GREATER DETAIL EVERYTHING IN CONNECTION WITH THIS SITUATION IN A PERSONEL VISIT THAT MAY BE ARRANGED AT YOUR CONVENIENCE. YOURS RESPECTFULLY,"  
END QUOTE.

JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIBERY, PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, ALLEGATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, SUBSIDIARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 75 STATE 114914, 75 PANAMA 2891  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, EIND, PN, US, UNITED BRANDS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006